THE NATION

Dies Links New Deal To Naziism, Fascism

Fight on New Deal More Important Than Fight on Axis, He Says

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Martin Dies told the House yesterday that bureaucracy—the anti-New Deal Congressmen's description of the Roosevelt Administration—is the same as Communism, Fascism, and Naziism, and that the fight against it is more important than the war.

Representing himself as the defender of liberalism, protector of minorities, and an American fighting against un-American groups, Dies attacked most of the Nation's foremost liberals and liberal movements. He said they were building a united front of radicals to destroy Congress.

'Conflict of Ideologies'

"More important than the conflict between rival armies," Dies told the House, "is the struggle between rival ideologies of government.

"The 19th Century liberalism which advocated the protection of individual rights, which culminated in those great and eternal beliefs and philosophies which surround the individual with every possible protection in the enjoyment of his rights, has been challenged for a long time by a new philosophy which in one country calls itself Communism, in another country Fascism, and in another country Naziism, and in another country bureaucracy. But the underlying principle of all these philosophies is essentially the same."

Later, Dies said, "we are rapidly approaching a period in America when the real power and function of government will not be exercised in this chamber, but it will be exercised by bureaucracy." He said Congress was "the only bulwark of freedom in America."

Gets Rousing Applause

More significant than what Dies said was the response he got from the best-attended session of the House since President Roosevelt's annual message was delivered. He was frequently applauded. And when he concluded, all but a handful of the Congressmen on the floor stood and applauded him vigorously.

Dies' audience included most of the Republicans and many Democrats, though far fewer Democrats than Republicans. He spoke for more than an hour and a half, with frequent sympathetic interruptions from Reps. Eugene Cox (D., Ga.), John Rankin (D., Miss.), Hamilton Fish (R., N. Y.) Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) and others like them. Cissie Patterson—publisher of the Washington *Times-Herald*, listened from the press gallery.

The only reply came from a new member of Congress—Rep. Will Rogers, Jr. (D., Cal.). In his maiden speech, Rogers said:

"I would like it known that there is one of us here who disagrees with the flamboyant manner of expression used by Congressman Dies, and I object to the use of this great public forum for—as we would say in Hollywood—personal publicity."

Dies got on the floor on a question of personal privilege—to reply to yesterday's attack on him by the National Lawyers Guild. But he hardly mentioned the Lawyers Guild, instead devoting himself to attacking liberals in and out of the Government.

Dies pictured the liberals as engaged in a "well-organized and highly financed conspiracy on the part of devotees of totalitarianism to discredit members of Congress, and Congress as a whole." He said there was "no more insidious way to destroy democracy than in discrediting Congress."

Into this "coalition of anti-parliamentarians," Dies threw the *New Republic*, and its editors—Malcolm Cowley, Rexford Guy Tugwell, and Bruce Bliven—PM and its pub-

lisher, Marshall Field; the Union for Democratic Action; the Citizens for Victory; the Friends of Democracy, and many others.

Defends Anti-Semitism

Dies pictured these people as "people who do not believe in America and never have believed in it." He described himself as "an outstanding advocate of the fundamental rights of every man, woman, and child in America," who had fought the Klan in Texas and defended the Jews, Negroes, and other minority groups.

Rep. Rankin interrupted to say that one

of the leaders of the "crackpots" was I. F. Stone, of PM—"whose name, I believe, is Feinstein—who now is trying to besmirch Cordell Hull."

Perhaps the most amazing section of Dies' speech was the part in which he attempted to defend his Committee against charges that it had failed to investigate the real enemies of America—the Fascists. Here he defended anti-Semitism in these words:

"There have come repeated demands that this person or that person be branded as pro-Fascist or pro-Nazi simply because he expressed anti-Jewish views. I do not hold with those who condemn anyone on account of the misdeeds of some people in that race, but there is no law against a man's denouncing the South. God knows I have heard Southerners denounced as viciously in certain quarters of this country as I have ever heard Jews denounced. . . .

"When they say Fascists, what do they mean by Fascist? Most of them mean people who have expressed anti-Semitic views: but that is not Fascism, for Fascism is not anti-Semitic; with all its faults, with all its sins representing an evil form of government, one thing cannot be charged to Fascism, and that is that it was anti-Semitic at the time of its origin.

"What do they mean by pro-Fascist? They mean people who believe in simple, fundamental Americanism, people who believe in preserving our Constitution, people who believe that America shall not fall a victim to the maudlin internationalism which characterizes a few people in this country."

AN EDITORIAL

Dies Hoarse Opera

Martin Dies opened again yesterday in his annual revival of the Dies hoarse opera. As usual, it was dirty in spots, corny throughout and it rolled them in the aisles. It can't miss.

The show will net Dies the customary $100,000, or perhaps even more this year. He will use the gate to keep Dr. J. B. Matthews, the professional former Communist fellow traveler, and a group of friends and relatives gainfully employed for another year sitting in regional offices scattered over the country and ruffing through books in the Library of Congress.

These friends and relatives will pretend to be looking for spies and other malefactors. If they don't find any, as they won't, they will issue reports making some up and telling of the risks they took doing it. Then some enterprising and shocked young Congressman will again show up Dies and his Committee as frauds.

Last year it was Rep. Tom Eliot of Massachusetts who revealed that the Dies Yellow Paper, purporting to disclose the secret plans of the Japanese intelligence services, was largely culled from a reference work in the Library of Congress.

More recently, Attorney General Francis Biddle, after consultation with J. Edgar Hoover, reported to Congress that the Dies Committee's list of alleged Communists in the government service was strictly phony. Even more recently, Rep. Jerry Voorhis of California, a member of the Dies Committee, disclosed that the Committee's methods of operation were scandalously sloppy.

It is true that this year's show is, in some respects, newer and better. For example, Dies has added "bureaucracy" to "Communism," "Fascism," and "Naziism" as villais to be booed. Indeed, he has given "bureaucracy" the heavy lead and demoted "Fascism" to the status of a relatively minor evil.

As for "Fascism," Dies came up with the announcement that it isn't anti-Semitic after all. "With all its faults," he said, "with all its sins representing an evil form of government, one thing cannot be charged to Fascism, and that is that it was anti-Semitic at the time of its origin." It might be said in answer, perhaps, that Dies was not a fool at birth.

But that's the trouble with criticism of Dies' act. It defies serious answer most of the time because it is nonsensical. Dies attacks bureaucracy — by which he means the thousands of government employes who are doing the hard, unspectacular work of this war—in order to perpetuate his own little bureaucracy—a nasty little gumshoe bureaucracy that makes a business of prying into the affairs of Americans and then lying about them.

The Dies show is political burlesque at its worse and some time the American people will rise up in their wrath and close it. But that time is probably not yet.

—KENNETH G. CRAWFORD